



More News

July
2014

STM Rejoice in Rome!

Live More,
Give More,
Think More,



Ciao from our Year 10 students who have recently returned from Rome! During their trip they visited many of Rome's most famous sites including the Spanish Steps, The Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona and of course, The Vatican. During their tour of the Vatican students visited the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Square, St. Peter's Basilica, The Tombs of the Popes and many students climbed to the dome at the top of St. Peter's Basilica to enjoy a unique view of Rome. Students also met Fr. Kevin, a priest who lives at the Vatican. The highlight was the liturgy in a private chapel within St. Peter's Basilica; a very special and spiritual experience for our students. On foot, students visited many of the other exquisite churches in Rome including Santa Maria Maggiore and San Giovanni Laterano and sampled authentic Italian cuisine in various Piazzas around Rome and thoroughly enjoyed taking advantage of the plethora of ice-cream flavours on offer.

STM Triumph at University Challenge



In June, four Year Twelve students set off to Durham University to take part in the Catholic Partnership's "University Challenge". The team of Jessica Robson, Lucy Andrews, and James Taylor were skippered by Lizzie Hogg. A tense first round match saw the team win, up against early favourites in the quarter final the team were on fire winning 150-10 on a wide variety of topics including History, Literature and Science. The team eased through the semi-final and onto the final St Thomas More eased to 60-0 lead but were starting to be matched when the next question was "Who were *Balthasar*, Casper, and Melchior?" The competitors buzzed in but the question was passed on to our team and Lizzie Hogg answered correctly. The lead was restored and our team from STM went on to be victorious. A superb effort, Congratulations to all!



Marsden Rock

The wonderful students of 8A1 had a great time at Marsden. The Geography department took all of Year 8 & spent the morning at Marsden Bay, South Shields investigating coastal landforms and processes of coastal erosion. Building on work already carried out in the classroom they were able to gain a more thorough understanding and appreciation of this topic. All students were impeccably well behaved; a credit to both themselves and our school; the sun shone and a most enjoyable field-trip was enjoyed by all. Surely proof that learning is fun!

Yr 8 Step Back in Time

Year 8 students were given the opportunity to experience why young men joined the army during World War One at Beamish museum when they took part in a 'Call to War' activity. Students were greeted by an army official who very quickly had them marching up and down the pit colliery to really put them through their paces! They were then divided into battalions and had to investigate the reasons why a 15 year old lad joined up in 1914 by talking to various people around the museum. After all their hard work students had to decide whether they would have joined the army and those who didn't were given, in true World War One style, a white feather.



STM Smash It!

English Teacher, Miss Ronan recently took a group of Year 9 students to St Bede's in Peterlee for the Catholic Partnership 'Shakespeare Smash' Competition. Our students took part in workshops and then performed a marvellous monologue from As You Like It. Their rap version of 'All the world's a stage' didn't win, but our students did a fabulous job. The judges described their performance as 'brave, experimental and unique,' praise indeed!

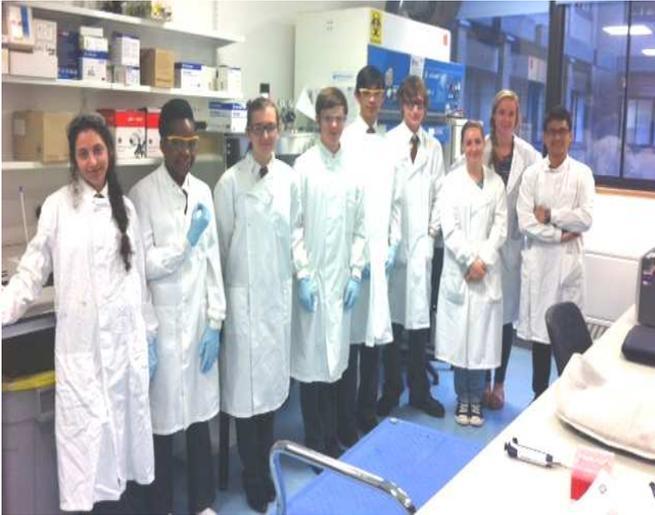


Spectacular Science

At the recent Catholic Partnership event our students watched a very charismatic demonstration by Dr. John P. Kilcoyne (from the TV show Brainiac from Sky one). Our 20 strong team joined other schools to discuss current STEM topics with STEM ambassadors. Lastly they listened to Professor Peter Kelly talking about his challenging role as Director of public health for the region. Our students were really inspired and said they had very much enjoyed the day and also the opportunity to meet students from other schools across the Diocese.



Year 9 have the Leading Edge



A group of 6 students from Year 9, Liam Banks, Conor McKenna, Thomas Stappenbeck, Rawan Aly, Megan Bain and Chipu Mashiri have been working with Newcastle University to research how pharmaceutical drugs are tested in the lab before they are clinically trialled. They have been working with liver cells and have been testing different substances to see which ones are toxic to living cells. The project has consisted of several after school sessions and also a two day workshop in the lab. STM Students will be presenting their findings to a discerning audience on the 2nd July.

Yr 12 explore Berlin

Twelve Y12 students and 2 teachers have just returned from a fabulous 4-day trip to Berlin. This was a great opportunity to enhance their sixth form studies as all of the students are studying German and/or History at A-Level. The group spent the 4 days visiting many famous sights and places of interest to get an insight into the amazing history of this lively, cosmopolitan city as well as a taste of German culture and language. Their trip included visits to a wide variety of places ; the Bundestag, the Holocaust Memorial, the Berlin Wall memorial, a Stasi prison, Potsdamer Platz, the TV tower, the Gedächtnis Kirche, a Memorial church and even KaDeWe, the largest department store in Europe. The students all agree this has been an incredibly enriching experience and Ms Wakeman tells us that they all returned footsore and exhausted but with a much fuller understanding of the fascinating history of Germany.



D of E Expedition come Rain or Shine



Thankfully on Day 1 of the the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition the yellow weather warning of thunder, lightening and hailstones never materialised, but the rain did as promised! 29 students walked 15km across fields of mud, bog and more mud to reach the campsite, put their tents up and cooked in the pouring rain. When Day 2 dawned bright and dry their spirits were lifted and our tenacious students trekked another 15km to successfully complete the Expedition Section of the Award . Congratulations to all the students and Thank you to the staff involved.



STM Sports Stars Shine at Monkton 2014



Our annual STM Sports Day was another great success this week. The standard of sportsmanship was superb and several school records were broken with brilliant team and individual performances including the formidable Year 9 Relay Team comprising of Aaron Koistra, Tom Craig, Harry Clark and Mackenzie Sharp who ran a superb race that left their competitors trailing behind. In Year 9 some individual mentions must go to the 800m runners ; Nandi Moswa who timed at an impressive 2minutes and 33.66 seconds and Jacob Carr who achieved a time of 2mins and 17.19seconds. In Year 9 Shot Put, Callum Stewart scored a marvellous 12metres 35 and Tom Craig completed a triumphant 200 m sprint at 23.78seconds. A special mention must also go to Alex Foreman in Year 8 who has set a new school record for his outstanding High Jump at 1m 60.

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Our Year 13 enjoyed a wonderful evening as they and their many teachers gathered to celebrate their Leavers Prom. It was an emotional evening for many as they enjoyed reminiscing over 7 years at School and particularly sharing special memories of the two years they had spent together in Sixth Form. The night was all the more special for Abigail Cutting and Josh Rigg (pictured right in their crowns!) who were chosen by their peers as the 2014 St Thomas More Prom King and Queen. Congratulations to them and Good Luck to all our Leavers!



Stroke association Mini Triathletes

The Brownlee brothers may be challenging for Commonwealth Gold this summer, but STM has the Brown twins. Laura and Kate are two of four Year 12 students who are participating in a mini triathlon at Nuffield Health and Fitness to raise money for the Stroke Association. This continues a long history of sporting challenges to support charities that Year 12 students have been involved in. In Years 8 and 9 students took part in the Aspire Channel Swim Challenge and in Years 10 and 11 and completed a team mini triathlon. This year they are going a step further and completing an individual mini triathlon. Not to be outdone, a number of staff will be taking to Tynemouth Pool to swim 500 metres, before cycling 20 kilometres around North Tyneside's wagonways and then finishing off with a 5 kilometre run along the seafront.

STM Chicks get cracking!

The annual STM chicks arrived several weeks ago as eggs and students were able to watch them hatch on the web cam. They have since been booked out in science lessons so that students can hold them and learn about them close up. Miss Percy and 9L have worked towards raising the money needed to book more chicks again for next year by doing a sponsored silence, making quizzes, cake sales and a raffle. Congratulations to Jack Morgan in 70 who won the cake and to Miss Elliott's form class for winning the Quiz!

